

RAUFFENBURG



1913

SENT

LESSON NO. 1

Felix Ysagun Manalo: How Shall He Preach Unless He was Sent

Theme: Examining the erroneous claims made by the Iglesia ni Cristo (Church of Christ) that Felix Y. Manalo was sent to preach.

Introduction

The Iglesia ni Cristo teaches that 'in order to preach, you must be sent'. Felix Y. Manalo started preaching in 1913, baptizing his initial converts that same year into the Pasig River. However, according to the Iglesia ni Cristo his authority-to-preach originates from him being sent on July 27, 1914. This creates a 'chicken-and-egg' argument and therefore the question arises, "which came first, *the preaching or being sent to preach*"?

1. Q. When was Felix Y. Manalo sent to begin preaching?
A. The messenger of God who would preach the gospel would start his work concurrent with the outbreak of the First World War *God's Message*, July 1993, p.16
2. Q. What is this work that starts at the outbreak of the First World War?
A. The work of sealing God's servants by preaching *God's Message*, May 2016, p.31
3. Q. When did God send Felix Y. Manalo to begin the work of preaching?
A. Iglesia ni Cristo members have come to the right understanding of God's words by means of the preaching of the one whom He sent in the time prophetically referred to as the, "ends of the earth" (Isa. 43:5-6) *God's Message*, May 2016, p.30
4. Q. When did Felix Y. Manalo begin or commence the work of preaching?
A. The time "ends of the earth" therefore, began on July 27, 1914. This is the time the messenger from the Far East would commence the work of sealing God's servants by preaching the true gospel of salvation *God's Message*, May 2016, p.31
5. Q. How many years did Felix Y. Manalo preach?
A. For almost half a century (1914-1963), he carried out his mission courageously and brilliantly through God's abiding love *God's Message*, May 1999, p.17
6. Q. Historically, when did Felix Y. Manalo begin preaching?
A. According to the Church Administration Felix Y. Manalo began preaching about the Iglesia ni Cristo in 1913 *God's Message*, May 2011, p.8

7. Q. Who were the first listeners of Felix Y. Manalo's preaching?
A. In 1913, Felix Y. Manalo began preaching about the Iglesia ni Cristo to employees of the Atlantic, Gulf & Pacific Co. in Punta Sta. Ana, Manila *GM*, May 2011, p.8
8. Q. How did Felix Y. Manalo prove to listeners in 1913, he was a God-sent preacher?
A. It was impossible for Felix Y. Manalo to prove he was sent-to-preach in the year 1913, when his authority-to-preach originates from him being sent 8-9 months into the future on July 27, 1914. This creates a 'chicken-and-egg' argument
9. Q. What is the 'chicken-and-egg' argument?
A. A situation in which it is impossible to know which of two things happened first or caused the other to happen (*i.e. Felix Y. Manalo was sent-to-preach in 1913, but in order to have authority-to-preach he must be sent on July 27, 1914 and vice versa*)
10. Q. How does this cause a 'chicken-and-egg' argument ?
A. It begs the question, "which came first, *the preaching or being sent to preach*"?
11. Q. Which came first, the preaching or being sent to preach?
A. This is impossible to answer because neither claim could exist without the other
12. Q. Why are claims about the life, ministry and mission of Felix Y. Manalo so convoluted?
A. Because the claims are built upon an anachronism, a chronological inconsistency or something that is out of place in terms of time or chronology

Conclusion

To summarize, Felix Y. Manalo began preaching in the year 1913, about 8-9 months prior to the outbreak of the First World War. However, the Iglesia ni Cristo (Church of Christ) teaches his authority-to-preach originates from him being sent at the outbreak of the First World War (*God's Message*, July 1993, p.16) at the, "ends of the earth" (*God's Message*, May 2016, p.31). This makes no sense whatsoever and only results into chronological inconsistencies (anachronisms) and a 'chicken-and-egg' argument. Begging the question, "which came first, *the preaching or being sent to preach*"?

It is this simple question that poses theological implications for the Iglesia ni Cristo (Church of Christ) because neither claim could exist without the other. Proving their teachings lack merit, logic and reason. Therefore, we can conclude without any hesitation that Felix Ysagun Manalo was not a God-sent preacher.

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